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2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
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November 19, 2007

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman:

Since I last wrote to you on July 27, Federal agencies have experienced a variety of events involving data loss or theft, privacy breaches, and security incidents. It is likely some of these incidents placed sensitive personal information at risk. As I noted then, however, agencies are not required to notify citizens whose personal information may have been compromised.

My bill (H.R. 2124) would require timely notice to individuals whose sensitive personal information could be compromised by a breach of data security at a Federal agency. Identical language passed the House last September as part of the Veterans Identity and Credit Security Act (H.R. 5835), a bill we both supported.

Given the volume of personal data held by the Federal government, citizens need to know when their sensitive information has been lost or compromised. As I am disappointed the Committee did not take up this legislation, I ask you to take advantage of Congress' return in December to move this important bill to the full House.

Sincerely,



Tom Davis
Ranking Member